

James Monroe to Andrew Jackson, December 2, 1817, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

PRESIDENT MONROE TO JACKSON.

Washington, December 2, 1817.

private

Dear Sir, I have the pleasure to inclose you a copy of my message to Congress, which was communicated to day.

I expected to have receiv'd a letter from you before this, or at least I inferr'd it, from your last of the 22d of Octr. I suspect from what Mr Rhea states, that you never saw, the order of the dept. of war, under which Major Long went to St. Louis, and acted on the Mississippi. It was under that order, that he return'd. None other, was, as I am assur'd, ever given him untill after his return. I merely suggest this for your information, not meaning to enter further into the subject.

My earnest desire is, to terminate this unpleasant affair, in the most honorable manner for you, that it may be possible, consistent, with principles, which it is my duty to maintain, and are explain'd in my last, to you. The mode, which, suggests itself, is, for the Secretary of War, Mr Calhoun, lately appointed, and who is daily expected here, to digest a system of regulations, by my order, to be observ'd, in communicating the orders of the President, to the commanders of divisions, or any persons under them, at a distance from their Hd. Qrs. A few rules, will be sufficient for the purpose, and in them, the principle may be laid down, that, as a general rule, the order should go to the Commander of the division, and that in all cases, when deviated from, a copy should be sent at the same time, to him. This will,

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I presume, terminate the affair, with perfect delicacy to you. No mention will be made of the affair, but it may be understood, that the case was held in view, and with sentiments of delicacy, and regard, for you. If on seeing what is done, you are satisfied, nothing more need be said on the subject, unless indeed you may be disposed to intimate it. I shall do for you, what I should wish, to have done, for myself, in such a case. I need not add, my most earnest wish, that you may remain in the public service, at least as long as I do.

with great respect and sincere regard yours